

Academic Papers

Title: **The potential of local science festivals: the Hakodate International Science Festival as a case study**

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Author Co-author

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Co-author: Masataka Watanabe

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Abstract: This paper discusses the importance of local science festivals as learning environments for citizens by sharing the know-how of science festivals in a local city, which was designed in 2008 and have been conducted annually since 2009. It is especially worth mentioning that learning theory and philosophy were applied in the design of the science festival in this case. Science Communication is an interpersonal activity that takes place in situations, contexts, or conversations that are inseparable from them, and is not a one-way "knowledge transfer" or "knowledge acquisition". Science Communication is part of a learning activity and should be defined as a process of interaction that goes beyond a single individual and occurs in social relationships within a community. Moreover, the concepts of conviviality, vernacular, and commons are useful in considering the meaning of science festivals in local cities. There are many cities around the world, not only in Japan, that are in the same situation as this case. There is significance in sharing the lessons learned in this case study and the design model as a "cultural apparatus". We believe that science festivals in local cities can contribute to a sustainable and resilient society in the future.

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